Applies To: **ALL Models**

March 1, 1985

Loss of Compression

PROBLEM

The engine will not start after being shut off for a short time, even though it started and ran normally the last time the car was driven. Cranking speed is very fast (indicating low compression), and a compression test shows 25-75 psi in some or all cylinders.

PROBABLE CAUSE

Such a sudden loss of compression is usually caused by carbon holding the valves open.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

Use the following procedure to remove any “soft” carbon that could be stuck to or built up on the valves and seats.

1. Remove the air cleaner cover. While someone cranks the engine, slowly pour an “upper cylinder solvent” (Gumout, GM Top Engine Cleaner, or equivalent) into the carburetor. After several seconds of cranking, compression will improve and the engine should start.

   CAUTION: Follow the safety precautions printed on the container.
2. With the engine running, continue to slowly pour the contents of the can (1 pint) into the carburetor.
3. Drive the car for several miles, accelerating the engine to 4000-5000 rpm in first and second gear.

To help prevent this from happening again, make the following recommendations to the owner:

- Accelerate the engine to 4000-5000 rpm at least once each day the car is driven.
- Use a high detergent, unleaded gasoline (a high detergent, low-lead gasoline is OK if the car has no catalytic converter).

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CUSTOMER INFORMATION: The information in this bulletin is intended for use only by skilled technicians who have the proper tools, equipment, and training to correctly and safely maintain your vehicle. These procedures should not be attempted by “do-it-yourselfers,” and you should not assume this bulletin applies to your vehicle, or that your vehicle has the condition described. To determine whether this information applies, contact an authorized Honda automobile dealer.